



## **Songhoy Blues – Optimisme Press Highlights**

*“Some of the most pissed-off protest rock right now is coming from outside the United States. Case in point: Malian band Songhoy Blues...” - Rolling Stone*

*“Even while calling for resistance against oppression, they’re still able to infuse their work with upbeat, jubilant rhythms and indie-dance guitar arrangements.”*

**- Consequence of Sound**

*“What would you get if Jack White and Afrobeat legend Fela Kuti showed up at Junior Kimbrough’s juke joint to jam? Something like Songhoy Blues, and electrifying rock quartet from Mali...it’s some of the best sounding protest rock you’ll hear in 2020”.*

**- Garden & Gun**

*“...an uplifting declaration of hope and perseverance, crafted with an honesty born out of lived experience.” - NPR Heavy Rotation*

*“Songhoy Blues produce some of the raunchiest, edgiest rock to come out of Africa...their energetic live sound has finally been captured on tape.” - Guitar World*

*“SB makes some of the most vibrant, life-affirming music on the planet. A guitar-led, energy-soaked blend of Malian desert blues, Afrobeat, and psychedelic rock.”*

**- Big Takeover**

*“For an album about optimism, this release sure kicks with righteous fury...They surf the interface between Malian pentatonic boogie and hard-core rock with a new level of sophistication and power, and when combined with the tough lyrics here, the effect is riveting.” - Afropop Worldwide*

*Over the past decade one of [Mali’s] most important bands is Songhoy Blues...while adored in their homeland and a favorite to world audiences, this project, ‘Optimisme’, may spread their influence even further.” - Glide Magazine*

*“...there’s a real energy and a real sense of Optimism...if you like hard rhythm sections, if you like really great guitar solos, this record is going to hit you right where you live and breathe” - Uproxx’s Indiecast*

*“This is resistance music, the members of this band, like so many people in northern Mali have been displaced by civil war, and on this music they call for the empowerment of women, they promote joy as weapon of resistance and not violence and that’s what this music is for them.” - NPR Music*

*“A shockingly infectious melange of rock and blues filtered through the sunny perspective of Afropop, ...with Optimisme, their joyous expression of experience transcends earthly personal statement and rises to the realm of akashic.” 9 out of 10 - **Music Connection***

*“‘Optimisme’ proves that the best rock music is coming from outside the US. It’s a fearless...due to their undeniable abilities to electrify listeners through their almost flawless instrumentals.” - **Meaww***

*“The third album from Malian group Songhoy Blues is a rollicking, high-volume, in-your-face rock record and not some delicate, café-friendly take on “world fusion.” - **Qobuz***

*“The album is the group’s boldest statement yet of choosing positivity and action to create change in their homeland, where they still live.” - **Riff Magazine***

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